9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

1774. MARCH. pillar which appeared above ground. We did not obſerve that the natives paid any worſhip to theſe pillars, yet they ſeemed to hold them in ſome kind of veneration, as they ſometimes expreſſed a diſlike when we walked over the paved area or pedeſtals, or examined the ſtones of which it conſiſted.

A few of the natives accompanied us farther on into the country, where we had ſeen ſome buſhes at a diſtance, which we hoped would afford us ſomething new. Our road was intolerably rugged, over heaps of volcanic ſtones, which rolled away under our feet, and againſt which we continually hurt ourſelves. The natives, who were accuſtomed to this deſolate ground, ſkipped nimbly from ſtone to ſtone without the leaſt difficulty. In our way we ſaw ſeveral black rats running about, which it ſeems are common to every iſland in the South Sea. Being arrived at the ſhrubbery which we had in view, we found it was nothing but a ſmall plantation of the paper mulberry, of which here, as well as at Taheitee, they make their cloth. Its ſtems were from two to four feet high, and planted in rows, among very large rocks, where the rains had waſhed a little ſoil together. In the neighbourhood of theſe we ſaw ſome buſhes of the *bibiſcus populneus*, Linn. which is common alſo in the Society Iſles, where it is one of the numerous plants made uſe of to dye yellow; and likewiſe a *mimoſa*, which is the only ſhrub that affords the natives ſticks for their

9: Forster T-5 (1774) 1777
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

1774. MARCH. About an hundred natives, and among them four or five women, accompanied us on our march, and ſold us a quantity of potatoes and a few fowls, which we added to our ſtock of proviſions. We found the whole country ſtrewed with ſtones of various ſizes, of a cavernous or ſpongy texture, and of a black, brown, or reddiſh colour, which had indubitable marks of having been in a volcanic fire. The paths through this rugged ground are in ſome meaſure cleared of the ſtones, but ſo very narrow, that we were obliged to turn our toes inwards, at which the natives are perfectly expert, and to ſet one foot exactly before the other. This mode of walking was exceſſively fatiguing to us who were not uſed to it, ſo that we continually hurt our feet or ſtumbled. On both ſides the ground was covered with a thin perennial Jamaica-graſs, *(paſpalum,)* which grew in bunches or tufts, and was ſo ſlippery that we could not walk on it. We reached the eaſt ſide of the iſland, near a range of ſeven pillars or ſtatues, of which only four remained ſtanding, and one of them had loſt its cap. They ſtood on a common pedeſtal, like thoſe which we had ſeen on the other ſide, and its ſtones were ſquare and fitted exactly in the ſame manner. Though the ſtone of which the ſtatue itſelf is formed ſeems to be ſoft enough, being nothing but the red *tufa* which covers the whole iſland, yet it was incomprehenſible to me how ſuch great maſſes could be formed by a ſet of people among whom we

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

In traveling southward, along the slope of the mountain, on again approaching the region of grass it was singular to observe the line of demarcation. The sand, moved by the winds, was gradually encroaching upon the vegetation, the depth of the edge being about 6 inches. The contrast between the deep red of the one and the vivid green of the other was very striking, and the line was as straight, regular, and clearly drawn, with fertility on one side and barrenness on the other, as any of a similar nature seen by the writer in Egypt. 137

The walking upon the sand, although tiresome, was easy as compared with that on the hummock grass, over which our route now lay. In our journeyings theretofore, although there was no regular paths and of course no roads, we were fortunate enough occasionally to strike a sheep or cattle trail, which afforded a welcome relief, however brief, to our jaded feet. There was nothing of the sort now—no avoiding of rough places, no choice of spots to plant a foot—and as we moved grimly onward, blundering at every step, the distance around Cape Anantanvanui seemed interminable. Thoroughly fatigued we reached the precipice, which terminated the plateau over which we had been struggling, and looking to the westward saw the welcome flags, still a mile distant, waving over our camp. The descent of the precipice at the point reached being precarious, its edge was skirted until a more favorable place was found down which to scramble to the plain below. Here we presently struck a trail, which soon opened into a wagon road, whence a footpath led to the camp, which the writer (the party having been scattered since noon) reached at 4.30 in the afternoon. 487

The situation of the camp, which was named "Baird" in honor of the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, was a delightful one, being located on the south side of the little bay of Hanga Nui, at the base of a bluff which partly sheltered it from the strong southeast trades, as well as the hot afternoon sun. Rana Roraka, from the crater and slopes of which all the monoliths on the island had been quarried, lay immediately to the left. Pua-ko-taki, over whose summit and around whose base we had toiled, loomed in front of us. Lying in the opening of our cave, we could gaze upon the great platform, Tongarika, with its fifteen prostrate stone images, the largest and most imposing on the island. At our feet, surging back and forth among the everlasting rocks as the swell rolled in from the open ocean, lay the sparkling waters of the Hanga Nui Bay. 122

The cave, called "Ana Haven" by the natives, ran back into the bluff a distance of 50 feet or more and laterally about 30. The entrance was spacious, and it was roomy, dry, and well ventilated, the trade wind, deflected by the bluff, sweeping nearly across its face. It was an ancient cavern, had been inhabited by the image builders, and was still occupied at times by the natives, as also by Messrs. Salmon and Brander when in this part of the island, engaged in rounding up their herds of cattle or sheep. The floor was strewn with dry litter, bull rushes and 342

10: Cooke D-5 (1886) 1899
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

[137] There are a few stunted trees and bushes growing near the water's
133 edge, inside the great crater of Rana Kao. This remarkable volcano is 1,327 feet high. The diameter of the crater at the top is 4,150 feet. At the water line inside it measures 2,085 feet across. The depth from the top to the lake is 600 feet, so that the surface of the latter is 727 feet above the sea level. The crater is nearly a perfect circle and unbroken at its upper edge, except at a point at its southern side, toward the ocean, where exists a large cleft or notch, through which, no doubt, the lava, when the volcano was active, found its way to the sea, and perhaps assisted in forming the small adjacent islands of Mutu Nui and Mutu Raukau. It was to this latter island that their swimming matches were annually held, in the effort to see who should be the first to reach it, climb to the precipitous sides, and bring back one of the sacred eggs of the sea bird, to which they attached such a superstitious value, and which conferred kingship for the year on the lucky captor for his prowess. This rock, covered with birdlime, looks at a little distance like a huge inverted stalactite projecting high in air from the depths of the sea. The labor and difficulty involved in mounting it, therefore, may be imagined.

133 The interior of the crater (Rana Kao) is distinctly conical in shape,
resembling a vast amphitheater, and presents a magnificent view.
●487 Trails lead to the bottom, in various directions, evidently the tracks worn by animals; but the descent, as well as the ascent, is most difficult, and but very few ever attempt the feat.

133 Grazing around the edge of the lake, as well as on the floor of vege-
table matter floating on its surface, could be seen cattle which looked,
137 at that dizzy height, of about the size of sheep, and sheep which appeared like rabbits. The lake at the bottom has been sounded by Mr. Salmon to a depth of 300 feet, when his line parted, without touching bottom. The surface edge is covered, over almost its entire extent,
137 with a thick, dense, intertwined, vegetable growth, the accumulation
of many years, from which grow small trees and bushes of considerable
312 size. At various places, and few in number, over this floating, elastic, vegetable floor, which rises and falls as the water in the lake increases or diminishes in quantity, according as it is the rainy or dry season, are openings of variable size and irregular circular shape, through which the water appears, rippled by the passing winds, and to which the animals resort to drink. Around these openings the vegetation is of a vivid green, evidencing present and vigorous growth, as well as gradual but steady encroachment on the small remaining free surface of the lake, so that in course of time it will no doubt become entirely covered. Other portions of the vegetable mass are of a deeper shade of green, while still other and older parts are of varying tints of brown.
312 Cattle and sheep may be seen browsing unconcernedly over various portions of the floating floor of vegetation, a curious and interesting spectacle, and instinctively, perhaps, avoiding the treacherous places

14: Routledge E-5 (1914-1915) 1917
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

Some statues have been buried no less than three different times—the first the original interment to secure its standing, and the later by different landslips. The stages are seen by the lines of weathering on the image; and in some cases the soil-levels are also shown by lines of charcoal, apparently caused by grass fires. Owing however to this position on a hillside liable to landslip there is nothing which can definitely be relied on as pointing to date. As will have been gathered the figures have not been oriented, nor do they seem to have been erected after any particular method or design, being simply set up in the spot most convenient to the quarry, or sometimes in the quarry itself. 532

In addition to the statues which have stood on the platforms or ahu, and those erected on Rano Raraku, there is another class which presented considerable difficulties:—the isolated images strewn about the island, which are more particularly numerous in the vicinity of the mountain. These are all prostrate, and it is generally stated both by visitors and the natives that they were in process of being taken from the quarries to the terraces when the great cataclysm arrived, and they were then left lying on the route. From the beginning of our researches we had felt certain there must be an old road to be traced; but for many months we looked in vain, and the manager who had lived many years on the island could throw no light on the matter. It was finally by accident that its position dawned on us. A lazy ride one Sunday afternoon took one of us to the top of a small mountain. The sun was getting low, and with the light thus just right the track was seen clearly. It could be traced by shallow cuttings through the higher portions of the route and slightly raised causeways over the lower parts. At intervals along this route lay the statues. We subsequently rode over the track, and found that while in certain places it disappeared its general trend was indisputable. 532 487

Our energies were next turned to the statues in the hope of finding some key to the problem of how they had been transported, and we dug underneath one or two with no result. The more however we studied the matter the greater grew our doubts as to whether the commonly accepted theory that they had been abandoned in process of transportation was after all correct. The lines of weathering on some could clearly only have been made with the figure in a vertical position, while the cleavage in others was far in excess of anything which could be produced by natural causes and pointed clearly to a fall. Our last hesitation on this point was ended by discovering that in some cases the foundation of the statues had been dug out and that some even now have not altogether fallen. It was subsequently ascertained that there were three roads leading to the mountain which had been adorned with statues—one approaching it from the south of the island, one from the west, and one from the north. Some of the figures had fallen on their faces and some on their backs; but all if again erected would stand with their backs to the mountain. On the longest road these figures had been placed every few hundred

14: Routledge E-5 (1914-1915) 1917
OY2 Easter Islanders OY2

532 yards for a distance of some six miles, and must have produced an im-
487 posing effect. We never found a statue of which we could definitely say that it was in process of removal, and we have no light to throw on the means employed, beyond the fact that graded roads have been made.

178 We trust that the result of our archæological work will be to give a
124 reasonably full and complete survey of the remains as they at present exist on Easter Island. Another channel was open to us, in studying the history of the island, namely, Ethnological Research. No hope had been held out to us before leaving England that anything of value could be obtained from the existing natives. It came therefore as a surprise to find that there was still much of interest to be learned from the old inhabitants. Ten years ago more could have been learnt; ten years hence practically nothing will remain.

175 It must be borne in mind that in dealing with the history of Easter
178 Island we have three periods to consider. Firstly prehistoric times whose
124 story it is desired to decipher; secondly a period of one hundred and fifty years dating from the first discovery of the island, during which time ships touched at intervals and have left a certain amount of record of what they found; and thirdly the present period of European occupation. Between the two last periods there is a great break. In 1863 certain slave raiders from Peru carried off half the population, including most of the principal men. In 1864 Roman Catholic missionaries landed, and speedily converted the remaining natives to Christianity. Old customs died out; old tradition was despised. Only those, therefore, who could remember native life prior to 1863 or 1864 could give any assistance. There were on our landing some twelve old people who came into this category; but
198 even so the difficulties in the pursuit of knowledge were very great. It
124 would not, as will readily be understood, be an easy matter to reconstruct English life of fifty years ago merely from the accounts of old people. The Polynesians are in addition notoriously inexact in their statements. They frequently do not themselves know when they are speaking the truth and when they are relying on imagination. Each witness had therefore to be cross-examined carefully but without any doubt being thrown on his story, which would immediately have given offence. Then some weeks later he was discreetly re-examined, when he had forgotten his previous evidence, and his account compared with those of others. The statements which follow have been thus very carefully verified; but there is much in addition on which information was sought but on which it is impossible to speak with certainty or even to speak at all.

124 The first question which naturally arises is with regard to Tradition, "Do the present inhabitants know anything of the origin of the great works?" To this, speaking generally, the answer is in the negative. They take the statues for granted, and they are of no particular interest to them. One boy inquired with the pity akin to contempt, "Have you